

SOILS AND GEOLOGY

The major soils of Richmond County are gray loam and poor sandy soil. Very little of the soil is classified as good soil. The soils low fertility along with the dryness greatly limits the areas farming capability.

The areas geologic characteristics are typical of the Piedmont Plateau with its triassic sandstone, sandy clays and marl. Most of the rock is from the Tuscaloosa Formation dating back to the early Mesozoic Era. Intrusive complexes of granite, granodiorite, garnet, quartz monzonite, diorite and gabbro are found in the area. Thirteen small diamonds have been found in North Carolina. One of these was found in the gravel beds of Richmond County.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The location of recorded archaeological sites was researched to determine possible impacts by proposed projects. Archaeological sites are generally difficult to identify without actually going out to the site and excavating and evaluating information and data obtained. As a result, possible sites might not be identified during the planning process due to this lack of information. Therefore, all thoroughfares should be evaluated individually prior to construction.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

The preservation of cohesive neighborhoods is a fundamental part of thoroughfare planning. By designating certain streets as thoroughfares, heavy traffic is minimized on neighborhood streets which minimizes the negative impacts too much traffic can have on these streets. In order to reduce heavy traffic on residential roads, new facilities need to be constructed and/or existing ones widened. The proposed projects on the thoroughfare plan would require approximately 25 houses, four mobile homes and four storage buildings to construct as determined by a field survey.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The location of educational facilities in the Rockingham-Hamlet planning area was considered during the development of the thoroughfare plan. No schools will required displacement as a result of the proposed improvements. However, implementation of the thoroughfare plan will have a positive effect on several educational facilities by providing easier access. A good example of this is the additional access provided for the Monroe Avenue Elementary School.